(d) whether any target has been set for completion of work of these National Highways; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) No proposals for declaration of Highways into National Highways (NHs) were received from the State of Uttar Pradesh in the years 2005-06 and 2006-07.

(b) Allocation for development of NHs are made State-wise and not NH-wise. During the year 2007-08, an amount of Rs. 120 crore has been allocated for development of NHs entrusted with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. Out of this, an amount of Rs. 45.31 crore has been spent up to October, 2007.

(c) No proposals are pending with the Government.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Completion of Sethusamudram Project

1139. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of his statement to the effect that the Sethusamudram Canal Project would be completed in one year in all respects and inaugurated by Prime Minister and others;

(b) if so, whether it is possible to do so, particularly when the issue is *sub-judice* before the Supreme Court and lot of controversy is going on over the entire country; and

(c) the objective approach on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Pursuant to the submissions made before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India by the Government Counsel on 14.9.2007 in respect of certain Transfer Cases and writ petitions relating to the Sethusamudram Ship Channel Project, the Government has constituated a Committee consisting of eminent persons with the terms of reference to invite objections and suggestions from all concerned including the writ petitioners having interest in the subject matter and to consider all suggestions/proposals/documents after giving them a personal hearing. The report of the Committee is awaited.

Rest areas on NH-5

1140. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NHAI has decided to withdraw all plants for rest areas on NH-5 in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Road Safety Forum had demanded completion of the rest area on NH-5 at Gundugolanu;